(b) if not, what Government are planning to do; and

(c) whether his Ministry would consider sanctioning of mobile health clinics to Jharkhand to provide basic healthcare to tribal people living in the far-flung areas of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The State of Jharkhand has requested for construction, and maintenance of health infrastructure of the Sub-centres, Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs) and strengthening of these institutions for better health service delivery in their Programme Implementation Plan 2006-07 under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).

An amount of Rs. 510.60 lakh has been released during 2004-05 and 2005-06 each as untied fund to meet local health need of the Sub-centres in the State. The State has already been released an amount of Rs. 140.25 lakh @Rs. 25,000/- per PHC as united funds for local needs and Rs. 280.50 lakh as Annual Maintenance Grant @Rs. 50,000/- per PHC for maintenance and improvement of physical infrastructure of PHC during 2006-07. The Stte has been resleased an amount of Rs. 1760.00 Lakh @Rs. 20.00 lakh per CHC for upgradation of CHCs to Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) during 2005-06. It has also been approved to provide funds for an amount of Rs. 27.16 lakh to provide telephones in Sub-centres PHCs, CHCs and District Hospitals. For improving physical infrastructure of these institutions an amount of Rs. 1571.79 lakh has been approved in principle with condition to provide operational details before incurring the expenditure.

(c) An amount of Rs. 50.00 lakhs has been approved in principle for provision of one mobile medical unit per district in the State subject to submission of detailed proposal by the State.

Influenza vaccination

1877. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no national policy on influenza vaccination;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) There is no specific policy for vaccination of influenza in the country. This is due to the fact that influenza is a mild illness and its vaccines gives very short term protection only for one season based on prevalence of strain in the country.

ICMR has initiated a multi-site surveillance programme for human influenza in India. Under the existing influenza surveillance network, five centres are working as regional centres, namely, (i) All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi (AIIMS); (ii) King Institute of Preventive Medicine, Chennai; (iii) Regional Medical Research Centre, Dibrugarh; (iv) Virus Unit, Kolkata; and (v) National Institute of Virology, Pune (NIV). Continuous monitoring of the surveillance would ultimately provide the basis for conducting epidemiological studies on influenza disease burden, and evaluate the clinical and economic burden of the disease in India.

Dismissal of AIIMS Director

†1878. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Board for All India Institute of Medical Sciences had taken a decision to dismiss the Director of the Institute on behalf of its President during last months;

(b) if so, when this decision was taken;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Board did not think it necessary to. consider the report submitted by expert committee set up to inquire into the irregularities committed into the Institute; and

(d) if so, the basis for the said decision?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.